REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Yoshikawa et al. and Claims 8, 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa et al. in view of Kobayashi et al. Claims 13-42 have been canceled, without prejudice and thus, Claims 1-12 remain active.

Considering first then the Examiner's indication that the Information Disclosure Statements filed July 25, 2005 and March 2, 2005 fail to comply with U.S. Patent Office rules and regulations because they do not include a concise explanation of the relevance of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It is noted that the lists referred to by the Examiner are not lists of references but rather lists of related applications which thus do not require a statement of relevance under U.S. patent rules and regulations. Insofar as each of these lists therefore is in compliance with U.S. Patent Office rules and regulations, attached hereto are copies of such lists and it is therefore requested that the Examiner properly initial each of the related applications listed for completion of the record.

Considering next then the Examiner's comments regarding the specification, such has now been reviewed and minor revisions have been requested where necessary for closer compliance with U.S. patent practice and procedure.

Next considering then the rejection of Claims 1-7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Yoshikawa et al. and the rejection of Claims 8, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa et al. in view of Kobayashi et al., it is to be noted that each of independent Claims 1 and 10-11 have now been amended to claim a driving part configured to drive at least one vibration application part at a driving frequency, the driving frequency being a natural resonance frequency occurring at a time of assembly of

the blade member and the image carrier. These limitations have been added based upon the importance of such features as explained at page 33, line 19 through page 34, line 18. As emphasized therein, a greater vibration application of the cleaning blade caused by the vibration application means is better for the cleaning characteristic. It was discovered that in the case of securing vibration displacement with as little energy as possible, it is preferable to drive the vibration application part at a resonance frequency at the time of cleaning operation, that is, at the time of assembling the cleaning blade 1 and the image carrier 11. Therefore, according to an embodiment of the present invention, a piezoelectric element, which is easy to drive and control, may be employed as the vibration application part. The piezoelectric element is driven at a resonance frequency, so that a greater vibration displacement may be obtained by a small driving current.

Insofar as a close review of Yoshikawa et al. and Kobayashi et al. fails to indicate a teaching or disclosure of the above-emphasized limitations, it is submitted that each of independent Claims 1 and 10-12 patentably define over such prior art as well as the remaining references of record. Each of dependent Claims 2-9 contain additional limitations which, it is submitted, have no corresponding teaching or disclosure in Yoshikawa et al. or Kobayashi et al. It is therefore submitted that such dependent claims also merit indication of allowability based both upon the limitations set forth therein and based upon their dependence upon Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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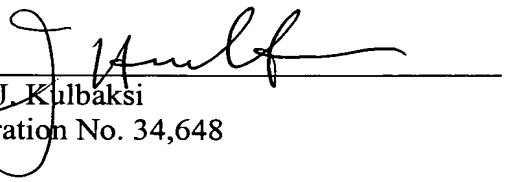

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